

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, TH, CH, VM, CB

SUBJ: THAI RELATIONS WITH CHINA, VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA

1. DURING AUGUST 15 DISCUSSION WITH DCM, MFA UNDER
SECRETARY ARUN GAVE THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF STATE OF
PLAY WITH REGARD TO THAI RELATIONS WITH ITS COMMUNIST
NEIGHBORS AND CHINA.

2. VIETNAM: ARUN SAID THAT THE RTG HAS PROPOSED THAT THE
VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG VISIT THAILAND SEPTEMBER
6 TO 9. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE ACCEPTED BUT HAVE ALSO ASKED
WHETHER PREMIER DONG COULD STAY ONE DAY LONGER, THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 10. ACCORDING TO ARUN, VIETNAMESE ARE STILL
HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN TYING DOWN PHAM VAN DONG'S VISIT
TO MALAYSIA.

3. ARUN SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE ALSO PRESSING THE
THAI AND THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES ON PHAM VAN DONG'S
ITINERARY, TO SIGN SOME SORT OF A WRITTEN DECLARATION.
WHILE THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT PROVIDED A DRAFT AS YET,
THEY APPARENTLY WANT SOME AGREEMENT OR ANNOUNCEMENT
EMBODYING MUTUAL PLEDGES WITH REGARD TO REGIONAL PEACE
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AND STABILITY. ARUN SAID THAT THIS WAS A TRICKY BUSINESS
AND THE RTG WAS NOT AT ALL ENTHUSIASTIC. HOWEVER, ARUN
SAID THE THAI MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO AGREE TO SOME
SORT OF DECLARATION.

4. ARUN CONFIRMED THAT THE RTG HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN VERY
RELUCTANT TO SCHEDULE THE DONG VISIT BEFORE PRC DEPUTY

PREMIER TENG HSIAO-P'ING CAME. HOWEVER, THE CHINESE EMBASSY INDICATED THAT THE PRC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PHAM VAN DONG COMING EARLIER AND IN FACT INDICATED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE A DEBRIEFING ON DONG'S VISIT AND THE POINTS HE MADE.

5. PRC: ARUN SAID RTG HAS NOW PROPOSED TWO DATES TO THE CHINESE FOR TENG'S VISIT TO THAILAND, ONE IN LATE OCTOBER AND ONE IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THE RTG IS NOW AWAITING A RESPONSE. (KRIANGSAK TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT TENG WOULD BE COMING NOVEMBER 5 - 9).

6. KAMPUCHEA: ARUN TOLD DCM THAT THE RTG HAS RECEIVED NO FOLLOW-ON COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE KAMPUCHEAN REGIME AFTER IENG SARY'S VISIT. HOWEVER, THE RTG IS HOPEFUL THAT THE KAMPUCHEANS WILL MOVE TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY HERE SOON. THE KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO BANGKOK AND TO CROSS INTO KAMPUCHEA BY LAND FROM THAILAND. THE THAI HAVE AGREED AND HE IS EXPECTED IN BANGKOK THIS WEEK. ARUN HOPES THAT THE MFA WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER READING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION FROM HIM.

7. MORE GENERALLY, ARUN SAID THAT THE RTG IS WATCHING KAMPUCHEA VERY CAREFULLY. BASED ON THAI INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND COMMENTS MADE BY THE VIETNAMESE TO DEPUTY

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FONMIN WONG IN HANOI, THE RTG BELIEVES THAT THE POL POT REGIME IS IN A VERY SHAKY POSITION. IN HANOI THE VIETNAMESE WERE VERY CATEGORIC IN THEIR COMMENTS TO WONG THAT THE POL POT REGIME "DID NOT HAVE LONG TO LIVE". AND THE VIETNAMESE INDICATED THEY EXPECTED THE "CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME. ARUN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE "CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" REFERRED TO ARE IN FACT DISSIDENTS BEING SUPPORTED BY VIETNAM. ARUN SAID THAT IN THIS SITUATION THERE IS VERY LITTLE THE THAI CAN DO EXCEPT WATCH CAREFULLY AND FACTOR INTO THEIR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EVENTUAL COLLAPSE OF THE POL POT REGIME. ABRAMOWITZ

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